

POLITICS

Kaya elders disown Mwakwere pick as Mijikenda spokesperson

A section of Kaya elders and politicians have disowned former Cabinet Minister Chirau Ali Mwakwere’s appointment as Mijikenda spokesperson, saying that they were not consulted.

Kenya Roads Board chairperson Aisha Jumwa and Youth Affairs and Creative Economy Principal Secretary Fikirini Jacobs echoed the elders’ sentiments, terming Mwakwere’s appointment as a purpose to serve selfish interests.

Speaking at Kaya Fungo shrine in Kaloleni sub-County, Kilifi County, the elders drawn from the nine Mijikenda tribes said that it was selfish for some leaders to meet and install a community spokesperson in the absence of Kaya elders.

Led by Nzai Tsuma, who is their coordinator, and Nguma Charo, a youth representative, Kaya Fungo, the elders issued a 14-day ultimatum to have the appointment revoked, and Mwakwere made to apologise for accepting to be used to break the rules of the elders.

“Why is the call for coastal unity being used politically and sidelining other leaders? We will not accept our community to be sold out by selfish individuals,” said Charo.

But William Kingi, chairman of the Umwenga Wehu Welfare Association, which unveiled Mwakwere as the Mijikenda spokesman on Friday at the home of Coast independence leader Ronald Ngala in Kaloleni, explained that the association was started as a social movement as opposed to a political entity to allow all community members to join freely.



Former Cabinet Minister Chirau Ali Mwakwere. [David Njaaga, Standard]

“Umwenga Wehu Welfare Association is not a political movement and all members of the Mijikenda community are free to join it,” he said, adding that the founders did not want to associate it with any political party.

Dr Kingi also explained that Ngala’s family, under former Cabinet Minister Noah Katana Ngala did not want politics to play out at the homestead and that was why did not invite elected leaders to the Friday meeting.

However, Jumwa said the association unveiled last Friday would not go anywhere since it lacked political blessings, claiming it was being led by a retired politician.

[Nehemiah Okwembah and Patrick Beja]

Alcohol abuse and gambling unsettle the Church in Lari



The Church has moved to rescue youth from Lari shopping centre. [File, Standard]

► Economic productivity and family life have been adversely affected in a constituency known for its fertile farms.

► Young people are seen loitering at the shopping centre as early as 10 am already intoxicated.

GEORGE NJUNGE, KIAMBU

The Church in Lari constituency has stepped up fight against gambling, drug and alcohol to rescue youths from the yoke and tight grip of abuse. This as it emerged that the youths in the sleepy shopping centres in the constituency engage in gambling as many throng dingy pubs to consume alcohol.

The Church says that this has affected their productivity and family life in a constituency that is known to have fertile farms.

Evangelist Karongo Mugi of the diocese of Mt Kenya South, Githiorini Parish in Lari Constituency said that alcohol and substance abuse in Lari had reached alarming levels.

He said the Church has moved to rescue the desperate youths from the shopping centres and introducing them to sporting activities and counselling sessions.

“The idea to liberate and deliver our youths did not begin as a sports project, it began with painful observation that the youth were seen loitering at shopping centre as early as 10 am already intoxicated, many barely out of their teenage years,” he said.

Karongo said that other youths slept through Sundays because Saturday nights were lost to alcohol, drugs, and gambling.

“As the Church we could not hold any longer as the youths dug their own graves and buried themselves in alcoholism in bid to veil their frustrations. We marched to the centres and got them,” Karongo said .

He added that parents in the region were equally frustrated and affected by the spiralling numbers of youths indulging in social vices. “We even have cases of petty thieves and our

investigation pointed theft as a scheme powered by the need to buy drugs and alcohol. That is how bad the situation is and we are doing everything to stop it,” he said.

“As an evangelist I am moving to those alcohol dens, having conversation with the owners and the customers and every day we pluck one or two youths, and bring them to sporting activities and counselling sessions,” Karongo said

He said the Anglican Church of Kenya organised soccer tournaments and the number of youths who took part in games overwhelmed the planners.

“We were shocked that the youths also wanted to move out of the shopping centres. What they lacked was the push,” Karongo said .

John Wainaina, is one of the youths from Nyamweru village in Lari who has joined the counselling classes and football games.

“I thank the Church and any organiser of games. Ordinarily, I would have been in an alcohol den. I did not choose to drink, I am frustrated like many youths of this nation and the only way to bury my head is alcohol. Soccer has engaged us and talks by the evangelists here have made us see our worth,” said Wainaina.

Wainaina added that he wished the local leadership and the government by large would see how small ideas in engaging youths can be fruitful.

“The politicians only engage us during few months to elections as a way of baiting us to elect them and they forget about us immediately after. We wish we would be engaged for long. We are also not happy to be in drugs I can tell you,” said Wainaina.

He added: “We are not happy that our parents are crying because of us. But what option is left for us? Who is looking after us or even listening to us? We are not bad people, circumstances and being ignored has driven us to drugs, gambling and alcohol.”

Joseph Mbugua, another reformed youth said that he started taking alcohol in the village and before long he was already hooked up.

He said it has taken time for him to completely shake off the habit. [gnjunge@standardmedia.co.ke](mailto:gjnunge@standardmedia.co.ke)

MURANG'A COUNTY GOVERNMENT



INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN MURANG'A COUNTY

Public Request for Proposals pursuant to Section 12(1)(e) of the Land Act, Cap 280

The Murang'a County Government is committed to industrializing the county, creating jobs, and enhancing opportunities for value addition to its diverse agricultural products. The ultimate goal is to increase farmers' incomes, improve the overall standard of living for residents, and boost the county's own-source revenue. The additional revenue will support ongoing public projects such as paving more roads, expanding healthcare systems, among others.

In pursuit of this vision, the County hosted its inaugural Investment Conference on 13th-14th June 2025. During the conference, a market sounding of available opportunities was undertaken, and the County pledged to provide detailed investment opportunities at a later date.

Pursuant to Section 12(1)(e) of the Land Act, Cap 280, the Murang'a County Land Allocation and Leases Management Act, 2023, and Regulation 17 of the Murang'a County Land Allocation and Lease Management Regulations, 2024, the County Government now formally invites interested investors to explore and engage in these opportunities under the following guidelines.

A. Murang'a Industrial Park – Opposite Makenii Reserve Price (Stand Premium and Annual Rent) per Acre:

Zone	Stand Premium (Kshs)	Annual Rent (Kshs)
Commercial	6.4 million	1.28 million
Industrial	7 million	1.4 million
Recreation	6.4 million	1.28 million
Affordable Housing	6.4 million	1.28 million
Bus Park	6.4 million	1.28 million
ICT Hub	6.4 million	1.28 million
Primary School	6.4 million	1.28 million
Secondary School	6.4 million	1.28 million
Infrastructure (Roads, Sewer, Water, Internet, Power)	To be evaluated based on applicant proposals	1.28 million
41 acre resultant parcel from the subdivision of land parcel L.R. No 12157/11	6.4 million	1.28 million

B. Gikono Landfill Per acre (Reserve Price, Stand Premium, and Annual Rent) – Proposals will be evaluated.

C. SME Parks Per acre (Reserve Price, Stand Premium, and Annual Rent):
• Maragua: 9 pieces
• Kiharu: 7 pieces
• Kangema: 1 piece
• Kandara: 2 pieces
• Kigumo: 3 pieces
Rate: Kshs 1.2 million (Stand Premium), Kshs 240,000 (Annual Rent)

D. Export Processing Zone (Industrial) Per acre (Reserve Price, Stand Premium, and Annual Rent) Kshs 7 million (Premium), Kshs 1.4 million (Annual Rent)

NOTES:

- Application Fee:** A non-refundable application fee of Kshs 20,000 is payable via:
Name: Murang'a County Investment Conference
Bank Account: 0220286335186
Bank: Equity Bank Limited
Branch: Murang'a Branch
M-Pesa Paybill: 247247 | **Account No.:** 0220286335186
- Evaluation of Proposals:** Proposals will be evaluated based on a broad set of considerations, not just reserve prices. Higher bids will carry greater weight. The full evaluation criteria and lease conditions (including tenure) are available on the County website.
- By applying for the above – stated land, you signify an irrevocable commitment to pay for the land if allocated by the Murang'a County Government, as per the prices indicated herein. Please note that the National Lands Commission reserves the right to adjust these prices before issuing formal allotment letters.
- Successful applicants will be issued a lease for 30 years renewable.
- Submission Deadline : Interested investors should complete the **Request for Proposal (RFP) form** available at www.muranga.go.ke by **12th January 2026 (close of business)**. The Murang'a County Land Allocation and Lease Management Committee will review all applications.
- Special Economic Zones Registration:** For Murang'a Industrial Park, the County is working to register the park under the Special Economic Zones Authority (SEZA).
- Allottees will therefore be subject to SEZ regulations and benefit from incentives such as tax reliefs.
- Survey Maps:** Authenticated survey maps can be inspected at the **CECM Lands Office, Murang'a County Headquarters**.
- Export Processing Zone Applications :** For EPZ opportunities, the County will only recommend investors to the Export Processing Zones Authority (EPZA), which will then conduct its own vetting.
- Applicability:** This call for proposals applies to **all investors**, including those who had earlier expressed interest during the Investment Conference held on 13th-14th June 2025.

Clarifications (on or before 12th January 2026)

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